

pay for transit instead of paying for it with your fees out of the highway trust fund, but they're going to pretend that they didn't add more money to the deficit. At the same time, they're going to make Federal employees put 6 percent of their salaries into a trust fund for this illusory offset.

Good work, guys.

□ 1220

ENERGY SECURITY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

(Mr. RIGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, we have within our grasp the opportunity to boldly address two of America's greatest challenges: energy security and unemployment. These two issues are inextricably linked. We can no longer tolerate a stagnant, slow-growth economy that's saddled with historic unemployment rates and a dangerous dependence on foreign oil. A key solution to these problems is energy, specifically, American energy.

The President said in this House that we must have an all-of-the-above strategy to energy independence. I agree. That includes harvesting the energy in every corner of America, including the 3.8 billion barrels of oil and gas off the coast of Virginia.

Last week, I introduced the Mid-Atlantic Energy and Jobs Act of 2012 to free up Virginia's abundant offshore energy. This legislation will help us achieve energy independence and could produce more than 18,000 local jobs, and it requires a significant amount of the royalties produced by the exploration to go toward improving our environment. The time to act is now. This Congress, this President, we're Americans. Let's do this.

AMERICAN JOBS

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the need for jobs in this country. On Wednesday, we will have reached 400 days since the Republicans took control of the House without a jobs bill, even though my colleagues and I have been calling for and demanding action.

The President has set forth a jobs plan that would allow Americans to get to work and for us to invest in this great country by focusing on improving our infrastructure, fixing our roads, schools, and bridges; by providing incentives to hire veterans by giving small businesses the support they need to grow and expand; and by cutting payroll taxes for 160 million workers, leaving more money in the pockets of consumers.

The members of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority are on the Hill this

week to be a voice for the jobless, to ask Congress to do what is in the best interest of Americans still trying to find jobs.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting job growth and investment in this Nation now.

SCHOOL CHOICE

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of national school choice because we need to offer our children effective education opportunities. And in Michigan, despite spending just shy of \$10,000 annually to educate each child, we need to look at a couple of facts. One, only 31 percent of eighth-graders are actually considered proficient in math. The other element that is very disheartening to me is the fact that one child drops out of school in America every 26 seconds. We have an obligation to give parents the tools and resources to get their children out of bad educational environments and into better ones.

As a Member of Congress, I support school choice and allowing States to even opt out of the No Child Left Behind program and use educational resources in a way that will best meet their local needs, not the demands of Washington, D.C. It should be up to parents—not governments—to choose what's best for their children. Better traditional schools, public charter schools, private schools, virtual education, and homeschooling. I personally advocated for these opportunities when I sat on the board of a public charter school in Michigan. I served as the director of development at Zeeland Christian Schools, and most importantly, as a parent along with my wife, who homeschooled our children. Those of us in Congress must continue to encourage and champion school reform.

FOUR CHAPLAINS

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible story of the USAT *Dorchester's* four chaplains. The brave "immortal chaplains," a Jewish rabbi, a Catholic priest, and two Protestant ministers, selflessly provided comfort and guidance to their interfaith community aboard the transport ship as it sunk into icy waters on February 3, 1943. These leaders of different faiths gave up their lifejackets and stood strong, singing prayers and hymns, sharing words of healing and peace as the ship went down.

We are so fortunate to have Rabbi Astrachan here with us today to help honor their sacred memory. Rabbi Astrachan currently serves the same congregation in York, Pennsylvania,

where Rabbi Goode, one of the four chaplains, once served, continuing to honor his legacy.

The four chaplains, Reverend George Fox, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Father John Washington, and Reverend Clark Poling, serve as inspirations in their military service and their sacrifice for our country. Their quintessentially American tale of faith and courage now has an ending we can proudly commemorate, as all four of these men are honored and memorialized together on Chaplain's Hill at Arlington National Cemetery.

For nearly 200 years, our Nation's breathtaking military cemetery has been a place to honor all of America's fallen soldiers, providing the sacred and majestic setting fitting to our Nation's heroes. Thanks to the dedication of many of my colleagues, we now have monuments at Chaplain's Hill to each of these faith groups, where we can honor their sacrifice together. This is a testament to the courage and commitment of all who have served our Nation in this way, and I am so honored to share in this observance with chaplains, members of the military, veterans, religious community advocates, family, and friends.

IMMIGRATION

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to talk about my bill, H.R. 3842, a bill that would prohibit the Obama administration from filing lawsuits against Arizona, South Carolina, Alabama, and other States over their immigration enforcement laws. In the last 3 years, eight States have adopted immigration enforcement measures to address the illegal alien populations in their States. And in response, the Department of Justice and Eric Holder have pursued unprecedented lawsuits against these States.

Mr. Speaker, there are over 10 million unauthorized aliens in this country. States must be able to enforce the law if the Federal Government refuses to, and States should not have to live in fear of Federal retribution for trying to keep their citizens safe.

My bill, H.R. 3842, would deny the Obama administration and Eric Holder the funding for these meritless lawsuits. Until the Supreme Court decides the case against Arizona's S.B. 1070, Congress must use our power of the purse to stop these political lawsuits and allow States to uphold the law.

HALFTIME IN AMERICA

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, everybody is talking about Chrysler's Super Bowl commercial "Halftime in America." It featured Clint Eastwood, relating the recovery of the American automobile industry. That inspirational ad